

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for deaerating liquid, especially water, ~~that contains air, oxygen, nitrogen, or other gas dissolved therein, by~~
  - (a) providing a stream of said liquid flowing at a first velocity and at a first pressure in a line having a first cross-sectional area,
  - (b) flowing said stream into and through a pressure reduction region in said line having a second cross-sectional area less than said first cross-sectional area, whereupon in said region the velocity of said stream increases, the pressure of said stream decreases, and gas dissolved in said stream evolves from said stream, and
  - (c) recovering said evolved gas separately from said liquid before it redissolves into said liquid.
2. A method according to claim 1 further comprising injecting stripping gas into the stream upstream of said pressure reduction region, and removing said stripping gas from said stream downstream of said pressure reduction region.
3. A method according to claim 2 wherein said the stripping gas is air, nitrogen or carbon dioxide.
4. A method according to claim 1 wherein step (c) comprises feeding said stream into a separatory vessel wherein said evolved gas and said liquid separate from each other, and said evolved gas is vented out of said vessel.

5. A method according to claim 1 wherein after said evolved gas is recovered from said liquid, said liquid is recycled to said line upstream of said region.

6. Apparatus useful for deaerating a liquid having gas dissolved therein, comprising  
a conduit for carrying a stream of said liquid, the conduit having a first cross-sectional area and having a region having a second cross-sectional area less than said first cross-sectional area, and  
a separatory vessel having an inlet in fluid communication with the outlet of said region.

7. Apparatus according to claim 6 further comprising means to inject gas into said conduit upstream of said region.

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